



Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager

Town of Sudbury

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April 30, 2009

Honorable Congresswoman Niki Tsongas
U.S. House of Representatives
1607 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Tsongas:

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I am writing in support of the funding application for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) as a High Priority Project in our district. This potential recreational corridor has significant regional importance, as the corridor traverses over 25 miles from Lowell to Framingham, and could provide excellent recreational opportunities to the residents of the Commonwealth.

In Sudbury, we are carefully studying all aspects of the development of the corridor; and as a Town, have not yet determined our preference for its eventual configuration and construction. However, we do recognize the value of preserving the corridor from development and fragmentation. We request funding support for the acquisition of a 1.2 mile portion of the right-of-way in Sudbury, owned by the CSX Corporation, and which extends the BFRT corridor into Framingham. We estimate the cost to acquire the corridor to be approximately \$700,000. We also understand that the Town of Framingham is working similarly with Congressman Markey to acquire the portion of the CSX corridor in their town. The Town of Sudbury has been negotiating with CSX for two years to purchase the right-of-way; and if funding becomes available, we have confidence that CSX will be a willing seller.

This parcel is listed as a high priority parcel in our recently-completed Open Space and Recreation Plan, and it would enable the trail corridor to link to additional recreational trails in Framingham. Acquisition of this land for natural resource preservation and recreational use is a high priority for the Town of Sudbury. Thank you for your support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager

cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Planner
Conservation Coord.